

another way to get to the Supreme Leader. Maybe it is through some of these private contacts. Why has that not been coordinated? I know the White House is involved in this, but do they know about that 2011 meeting? If FBI agents were there on the case, why was the White House not informed along with the leadership of the FBI? Something is terribly amiss, and we need to get to the bottom of it.

Sadly, on this ninth year of Bob Levinson's disappearance, a patriotic American who—poof—on the way to the airport disappeared from Kish Island, Iran—sadly, 9 years later, there is no information about bringing Bob Levinson home.

To the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the head of the FBI, the head of all of our alphabet agencies: It is time to get the information about Bob and bring him home.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 524, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 524) to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

Pending:

Grassley amendment No. 3378, in the nature of a substitute.

Grassley (for Donnelly/Capito) modified amendment No. 3374 (to amendment No. 3378), to provide follow-up services to individuals who have received opioid overdose reversal drugs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon will be equally divided between the two managers or their designees.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

REMEMBERING JUSTICE SCALIA

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, on February 13, 2016, the Supreme Court lost one of its Justices, our Nation lost a true legal giant.

Justice Scalia was described by colleagues as "extraordinary," "treasured," and "a stylistic genius." Beyond his unwavering dedication to upholding the originalist viewpoint of the Con-

stitution, Justice Scalia was also wholeheartedly committed to his family. He was a husband, father of 9, and grandfather to 36 grandchildren.

His son Paul said of him during his homily:

God blessed Dad with a love for his family. . . . He was the father that God gave us for the great adventure of family life. . . . He loved us, and sought to show that love. And sought to share the blessing of the faith he treasured. And he gave us one another, to have each other for support. That's the greatest wealth parents can bestow, and right now we are particularly grateful for it.

Justice Antonin Scalia was nominated to the Supreme Court in 1986 by President Reagan and was confirmed by the Senate in a unanimous vote. While his time on the Court often led to some criticism of his legal opinions and his very colorful dissents, he remained respected by his colleagues, even those of the opposite end of the judicial spectrum. This is a sign of true character—to have an open, honest debate about a particular issue while respecting the individual person holding an opinion different from your own.

Justice Scalia said:

I attack ideas. I don't attack people. And some very good people have some very bad ideas. And if you can't separate the two, you gotta get another day job.

The sentiment was best portrayed through his friendship with Justice Ginsburg. As one of his friends, she said:

We are different, but we are one. Different in our interpretation of written texts. One in our reverence for the Constitution and the institution we serve. From our years together on the D.C. Circuit, we were best buddies. We disagreed now and then, but when I wrote for the Court and received a Scalia dissent, the opinion ultimately released was notably better than my initial circulation.

Justice Scalia was known for his wit and his sarcasm in his writings, famously referring to legal interpretations of his colleagues as "jiggery-pokery," "pure applesauce," and "a ghoul in a late horror movie." Yet it was these same criticisms that Justice Ginsburg said nailed the weak spots in her opinions and gave her what she needed to strengthen her writings.

Justice Scalia represented a consistent, constitutional voice on the Supreme Court. Just as the Constitution is the pillar of our legal system, so too is his affirmation to this foundational document of our Nation. He said:

It is an enduring Constitution that I want to defend. . . . It's what did the words mean to the people who ratified the Bill of Rights or who ratified the Constitution, as opposed to what people today would like.

Justice Kennedy said:

In years to come any history of the Supreme Court will, and must, recount the wisdom, scholarship, and technical brilliance that Justice Scalia brought to the Court. His insistence on demanding standards shaped the work of the Court in its private discussions, its oral arguments, and its written opinions. Yet these historic achievements are all the more impressive and compelling because the foundations of Justice Scalia's jurisprudence, the driving force in all his

work, and his powerful personality were shaped by an unyielding commitment to the Constitution of the United States and to the highest ethical and moral standards.

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. President, with Justice Scalia's passing, we have a vacancy on the Court to fill.

The question is, When?

I would submit, with only months left until the Presidential election, that we should let the people decide.

I have heard over and over for the past 7 years that elections have consequences, but apparently some people seem to only think elections have consequences on Presidential elections. The American people elected a brand new Senate in 2014 because of their incredible frustration with the operation of the previous Senate and because of the direction that we are now heading under this President.

I have heard this argument for years: The President should be able to do what he wants. He is the President. But may I remind everyone of a document in our National Archives called the U.S. Constitution, which gives divided power to our Nation. The President is not over the Senate, not over the House, and not over the Supreme Court.

Hyperbole of this has been overwhelming to me in the debate of the past few weeks. I have heard that unless we replace Justice Scalia right now, we will "shut down the court." I have heard on this floor people say that if we don't replace Justice Scalia immediately, it is "dangerous," it is "unprecedented," it is unheard of. I have heard: "Do your job"—a failure to do your duty. I even heard one Senator say: "The Constitution says the President shall appoint and the Senate shall consent."

Well, let me show you article II, section 2 of the Constitution where that comes up. It says that the President "shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate"—the President shall nominate. That is his constitutional responsibility. But it is not the constitutional responsibility—it never says the Senate shall give consent to the President. Why? Because the Constitution gives the role of selecting a Supreme Court nominee in a 50-50 responsibility between the Senate and the President of the United States.

The President shall nominate; that is his responsibility. But that only moves forward with the advice and consent of the Senate. There is no "shall give consent." There is no requirement how it moves.

In fact, Alexander Hamilton in *The Federalist Papers*, on this very issue, said that the "ordinary power of appointment is confided to the President and Senate jointly."

This is a 50-50 agreement. What we are facing right now are incredible attacks on the chairman of the Judiciary